REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-22 have been amended in order to write these claims in the appropriate U.S. claim format, correct errors of spelling and syntax, and eliminate multiple dependencies. Amended claim 4 combines original claims 4 and 5, and amended claim 9 combines original claims 9 and 10.

Claims 5 and 10 have been canceled.

Claims 23-34 have been added by the foregoing amendments. Claims 23-28 are directed to alternative elements (i)-(iv) of original claim 20.

Claims 29-32 are directed to delayed release coated cores containing an organic acid. Support for these claims is found in the specification, for example, at page 5, line 31 to page 6, line 5 and Examples 1-3.

Claims 32-34 further specify the organic acid, the surfactant and the active substance. Support for these claims is found in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 4-5, page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 6, page 5, lines 11-29 and Examples 1-3.

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-34 are in the application as amended.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the instant amendment. The marked-up version is entitled "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claims 1-4 and 6-22 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A delayed release coated core [producing] which produces a timed pulse release [comprising] containing an active substance in its core and a polymer coating comprising [at least] one or more ammonio methacrylate copolymers, [characterised in that the] said core [comprises at least] further containing one [ore] or more surfactants, one of said surfactants being [a means that diffuses] capable of diffusing into the polymer coating and [at a given level provokes] provoking a sudden change in the coating's properties.

2. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to claim 1 [, characterised in that] wherein the surfactants are cationic or zwitterionic in nature.

3. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to claim 2 [1 or 2, characterised in that] wherein the ammonio methacrylate copolymers are of type A or B.

4. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to [anyone of claim 1 to 3, characterised in that] Claim 3 wherein the cationic surfactants are chosen [among] from trimethyl-dimyristoyl-ammonium propionate, dimethyl-dioctadecyl-ammonium bromide, trimethyl-cetyl-ammonium bromide, dimethyl-didodecyl--ammonium bromide, benzalkonium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride and cetrimide and the zwitterionic surfactants are chosen from N-alylbetaines, C-alkylbetaines, N-alkylamidobetaines, N-alkylglycines, phosphatidylcholines and lecithins.

6. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to claim 4 wherein [5, characterised in that] the zwitterionic surfactant is [cocamidopropylbetain] cocamidopropylbetaine.

7. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to [anyone of claim 1 to 6, characterised in that] Claim 3 wherein the active substance is chosen [among] from diltazem, theophylline, felodipine, verapamil, clonidine, acebutolol, alprenolol, betaxolol, metoprolol, nadolol, propranolol, timolol, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, tiapamil, gallopmil, amlodipine, nitrendipine, nisoldipine, nicardipine, felodipine, molsidamine, indomethacin, sulindac, indoprofen, ketoprofen, flurbiprofen, fenbufen, fluprofen, diclofenac, tiaprofenic acid, naproxen, mizolastin, terbulaline, salbutamol, betamethasone, prednisone, methylprednisone, dexamethasone, prednisolone, sumatriptan, naratriptan, cimetidine, ranitidine, famotidine, nizatidine, omeprozole, morphine, fenoprofen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, alclofenac, mefenamic, alfuzosin, prazosin, tamulosin, levodopa and methyldopa, their salts and pharmacologically active esters.

8. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to [anyone of claim 1 to 7, characterised in that it is] Claim 3 in the form of a particle, pellet, bead, granule or spheroid, of a diameter comprised between 0.3 and 3 mm.

9. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to [anyone of claim 1 to 7, characterised in that it is] Claim 3 in the form of a tablet or a minitablet.

11. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to [anyone of claim 1 to 10, characterised in that] Claim 3 wherein the core is separated from the polymer coating by a layer of water soluble polymer.

12. (Amended) A delayed release coated core according to claim 11 [, characterised in that] wherein the soluble polymer is chosen [among] from hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose and [polyvinylpyrolidone] polyvinylpyrrolidone.

13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form compromising [at least] a delayed release coated core according to [anyone of claims 1 to 12] Claim 3.

14. (Amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form according to claim 13 [, characterised in that it takes] in the form of a tablet, a multilayer tablet, a multicoated tablet or a capsule.

15. (Amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form according to claim 13 [or 14, characterised in that] wherein coated cores of differing delayed release times are combined together to give a "stepped" release profile.

16. (Amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form according to claim 13 [or 14, characterised in that] wherein the delayed release coated [core(s) is/are] core is combined with [other] another galenic [entitie(s), which] entity,the release [is] of said entity being immediate or sustained.

17. (Amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form according to claim 16 [, characterised in that] wherein the other galenic [entitie(s) contain(s) a different] entity contains an active substance [as] different from the active substance in the delayed release coated [core(s)] core.

18. (Amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form according to claim 16 [, characterised in that] wherein a first release pulse occurs immediately and a second release pulse is delayed [to] for a fixed time.

19. (Amended) A capsule according to claim 16 [, characterised in that it comprises the] comprising a delayed release coated [cores according to claim 8 or 10] core in the form of a particle, pellet, bead granule or spheroid having a diameter of 0.3 to 3 mm or in the form of a minitablet, and an immediate and/or sustained release entity chosen [alternatively among] from

(i) immediate release particles or minitablets or an immediate release granulate or powder, and

(ii) controlled release particles or minitablets.

20. (Amended) A tablet according to claim 16 [, characterised in that it comprises] wherein the delayed release coated core in the form of a particle, pellet, bead granule or spheroid having a diameter of 0.3 to 3 mm is [cores according to claim 8] imbedded in a rapidly disintegrating matrix [and alternatively in that

(i) the matrix is free of the active substance,

(ii) the matrix also comprises the active substance,

(iii) sustained release particles are mixed to the delayed release particles,'

(iv) immediate release particles are mixed with the delayed release coated particles,

(v) the delayed release particles are further coated with a layer comprising the active substance, allowing an immediate release,

(vi) the tablet consists of one or more layers comprising the delayed release particles in the rapidly disintegrating matrix and of one or more layers comprising the active substance in an immediate release matrix].

21. (Amended) [Capsule] A capsule according to claim 16 [, characterised in that it comprises] comprising one or more immediate release tablets and one or more delayed release [tablets according to claim 9] coated cores in the form of tablets.

22. (Amended) A multicoated tablet [Multicolored tablets] according to claim 16 [, characterised in that the tablet is] coated with an immediate release soluble or disintegrable coating.

Claims 5 and 10 have been canceled.

Claims 23-34 have been added.